

University of Northern Iowa
UNI ScholarWorks

Documents - Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

12-8-2003

University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2003

University of Northern Iowa. Faculty Senate.

Copyright ©2003 Faculty Senate, University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/facsenate_documents



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Faculty Senate., "University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2003" (2003). *Documents - Faculty Senate*. 1008.
https://scholarworks.uni.edu/facsenate_documents/1008

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Documents - Faculty Senate by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING 12/08/03

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Heston at 3:20 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2004 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane. Motion passed.

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

Terry Hudson, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier, was present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST PODOLEFSKY

The Provost stated that he had three parts to his comments today, the first part regarding the Governor's statement that he is not intending to request salary increases for state employees from the legislature. Based on what we know, this will result in an addition shortfall for next fiscal year of \$3.2 million over and above the \$2 million that we were just cut this fall.

The Provost's second comment was that he has met with the UNI Senate Budget Committee to review the suggestions that have been received as a result of the recent campus wide e-mail concerning the budget. They will be meeting again to discuss these suggestions and on how to handle this now even larger budget problem

The third item is a suggestion to the Senate, regarding today's curriculum package. He noted that many of the proposals in the curriculum package have costs involved with them and it is not clear if they have been fully considered in light of today's budget situation. His suggestion is to table the package and send it back to the University Curriculum Committee, asking them to divide it into two parts. One would be those things that are not problematic, and the other part would be those changes having potential costs involved, such as adding credit hours, adding more courses than dropping, or adding new programs. The Curriculum Committee can be asked to make a decision quickly enough to report back to the Senate before the schedule of classes is due in February. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS FROM FACULTY CHAIR, CAROL COOPER

Dr. Cooper noted that the Board of Regents will be meeting next Tuesday in Ames.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR, MELISSA HESTON

Chair Heston had no comments.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

859 Emeritus Status request for LeRoy A. McGrew, Department of Chemistry, effective 12/03

Motion to docket in regular order as item #769 by Senator Couch Breitbach; second by Senator Zaman. Motion passed.

860 Curriculum Review

Motion to docket at the head of the docket as item #770 by Dr. Cooper; second by Senator Chancey. Motion passed.

Chair Heston stated that the Senate will move forward with Consideration of Docketed Items at this time and will then come back to "New Business" and "Ongoing Business".

CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

770 Curriculum Review

A lengthy discussion took place.

Senator Chancey moved to send the 2003-2004 Curriculum Changes document back to the University Curriculum Committee for review with respect to the cost of the programs; second by Senator Pohl.

Senator Couch Breitbach offered that as a Friendly Amendment it should also go back to the Graduate College. Senator Chancey accepted it. Senator Pohl seconded the Friendly Amendment.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Chancey reported on his work with the new student Faculty Evaluation committee.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Senator Chancey spoke on behalf of the Liberal Arts Core Committee, noting that they met last Friday on how they could

enlarge the discussion on campus involving the Liberal Arts Core recommended revisions that had been brought forth. They will be undertaking discussions with each of the College senates in the next two months, with the idea of completing this process sometime in February. All faculty will be reminded of the proposed document through e-mail so that all faculty have a chance to respond to their individual representatives.

Discussion followed.

Faculty Chair Cooper stated that Donna Vinton has been awarded the Regents Award for Staff Excellence.

CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

768 Emeritus Status request for Jack Graham, School of Music, effective 12/03

Motion to approve by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane. Motion passed.

769 Emeritus Status request for Leroy A. McGrew, Department of Chemistry, effective 12/03

Motion to approve by Senator Couch Breitbach; second by Zaman. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT FOR SENATOR'S REVIEW

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING 12/08/03 1599

PRESENT: Ronnie Bankston, Karen Couch Breitbach, Clif Chancey, Carol Cooper, Cindy Herndon, Melissa Heston, Susan Koch, Otto MacLin, Susan Moore, Chris Ogbondah, Steve O'Kane, Aaron Podolefsky, Gayle Pohl, Tom Romanin, Katherine vanWormer, Roberta Roth, Shah Varzavand, Donna Vinton, Mir Zaman

Kenneth Basom was attending for Dharendra Vajpeyi and Marty Reineke was attending for Jesse Swan.

Absent: David Christensen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Heston at 3:20 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2004 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane. Motion passed.

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

Terry Hudson, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier, was present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST PODOLEFSKY

The Provost stated that he had three parts to his comments today, with the first part regarding the Governor's statement that he is not intending to request salary increases for state employees from the legislature. At this point in time we can make some assessments based on what we know. Because we have already gone through the salary negotiations with the various unions representing faculty and staff, we know the cost of the salary increases. We also know the tuition increase because this has already been passed by the Board of Regents. We know that 18% of tuition has been mandated by the Board of Regents for student scholarships. And we can predict enrollment for next fall. Based on all these factors, we will have an additional shortfall for next fiscal year of \$3.2 million over and above the \$2 million that we were just cut from this year. In other words, there is about \$3.2 million more in mandatory costs for salaries than from net increase in tuition, which is like a budget cut because we have to take the money from someplace. The Deans have already begun working on the \$2 million cut and will have to deal with the additional \$3.2 million.

The UNI Senate Budget Committee has met with the Provost to review the suggestions that have been received as a result of the recent campus wide e-mail concerning the budget. The resulting suggestions are classified into five categories: things in other divisions, faculty workload, program elimination, program reduction, and other personnel savings. The committee will meet again to discuss these suggestions on how to handle this now even larger budget problem.

The third item is a suggestion to the Senate, which they may take up or ignore. Preparation for the current curriculum package began over a year ago and while there were several budget cuts we were not where we are today in regards to the budget. Many of the proposals in the curriculum package have costs involved in them and it is not clear if they have been fully considered in the light of today's situation. The Provost noted that the items

in the package clearly fall into two categories. His suggestion is to table the package and send it back to the University Curriculum Committee, asking them to divide it into two parts. One part would be those things that are not problematic, such as course title changes, course descriptions changes, and those sorts of things. The other set have potential costs involved, such as adding credit hours, adding more courses than dropping, or new programs. The programs that are making those requests should visit with the Deans or the University Curriculum Committee and show how they can do this without increased revenues to their department or to the university, or how programs can be shifted to accommodate this. The Curriculum Committee can be asked to make a decision quickly enough to report back to the Senate before the schedule of classes is due in February.

Chair Heston asked Senator Pohl, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee for comments. Senator Pohl replied that the Provost did a good job of covering what the Committee had planned. They will be going through and looking at the recommendations that are considered feasible or not already in process and examine them in full detail next week. She is in full support of what the Provost discussed because we do need to look at those programs that will cost money and determine if this is where we want to spend money.

Senator Zaman noted that what is of concern to him is new or dropped majors or shortened programs. We need more information before making any decisions.

The Provost responded that he agrees, and that is one of the things they will be asking of the University Curriculum Committee. He will hold the Deans responsible to their budgets and that if they signed off to add additional programs then they must be able to do so without any increases in funding.

Faculty Chair Cooper questioned if there was a hiring freeze currently in place. The Provost replied that there is a freeze on now and the Deans have been told that when they came up with the amount of money that he had identified previously to cover the \$2 million cut they could then reopen searches. However, the \$2 million cut they could reopen searches. However, this \$3.2 million has now been added. We have been through eight budget cuts in the last three years and his philosophy is to be out in front of it and then step back if things turn in our favor. In response to Senator Zaman's comment, yes, we do need to have a "harder" look at our curriculum than we have before.

COMMENTS FROM FACULATY CHAIR, CAROL COOPER

Dr. Cooper noted that the Board of Regents will be meeting next Tuesday in Ames, and she will be attending along with the Chairs of the Senates from Iowa and Iowa State. Iowa will also be

cutting a number of classes and Iowa State is looking at a merging or doing away with the College of Education and the Graduate College. So there are actions of different sorts taking place on the other campuses of the other Regents institutions.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR HESTON

Chair Heston had no comments.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

859 Emeritus Status request for LeRoy A. McGrew, Department of Chemistry, effective 12/03

Motion to docket in regular order as item #769 by Senator Couch Breitbach; second by Senator Zaman. Motion passed.

860 Curriculum Review

Motion to docket at the head of the docket as item #770 by Dr. Cooper; second by Senator Chancey. Motion passed.

Chair Heston stated that the Senate will move forward with Consideration of Docketed Items at this time and will then come back to "New Business" and "Ongoing Business".

CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

770 Curriculum Review

Vice Provost Koch noted that Forrest Dolgener of the Graduate Curriculum Committee is also present today.

Dr. Koch referred to the memo that was sent along with the curriculum package highlighting the elimination of Master Degree programs in Audiology, Theatre, and Political Science. She noted that admission to those programs had already been suspended, and this is now the second step in the two-step process. She also noted that there were three new undergraduate majors proposed from the Department of Computer Science. She called attention to the chart on the second page of her memo that shows in summary form new majors, proposed new minors, and that sort of thing. One of the things that the Board of Regents focuses on is the number of new and dropped courses. They are always looking for a balance in that respect. She noted that with this packet there are more new courses than dropped courses, which could be problematic as we move forward.

Looking at new courses by college, in Education the majority of those new courses are in HPELS, and some in Educational Leadership. In CHFA they are almost equal in the number of new and dropped courses. In CNS there are again more new courses than dropped and most of those new courses are in Computer Science and have to do with the new majors but there are some in Biology and Industrial Technology. In CSBS the majority of the new courses are graduate courses.

Dr. Koch noted that her main concern as Chair of the Curriculum Committee is the number of restatements of majors that are increasing the number of credit hours required. There are 14 restatements that make programs longer that triggers concern in light of this new budget concern. The Committee has not had time to discuss this at all but as Chair she believes the Committee would be very willing to take another look at these programs in light of this new information, and she would be very supportive of this if that is the Senate's wish. She acknowledged that time is an issue; however, the committee does have time to take an additional look, taking more time to review those issues that we have concern for and to report back at the Senate's last January meeting.

Dr. Dolgener commented that in the Graduate Curriculum Committee essentially every new course that came forward indicated no increase in cost. He's noted that a number of new courses came forward that had been taught under some other category or number. At the graduate level there are a total of 49 new courses and 34 courses dropped. But within those new courses, there were 6-8 that were really not new in terms of resources because there are already being taught.

Dr. Koch responded that the same is true at the undergraduate level with some that are totally new and some that are a redefinition or renaming of another course and these could be separated.

Senator Zaman noted that the same could be true of the dropped courses, how many are offered every semester? It may be that half of them were not offered last year and the net gain would be less. This information should also be considered.

The Provost noted that a number of these courses were dropped by the Registrar because they had not been offered in a number of years. Dr. Koch responded that the Registrar does do a scan periodically and courses that are not offered in a certain number of semesters are dropped.

Diane Wallace, UNI Registrar's Office, commented that none of courses dropped were in that "not offered in four years" limitation and the departments have been very good at cleaning up courses that have not been offered in four years since that policy was put into effect by the Faculty Senate.

The Provost commented that we need to make sure that departments are putting these new courses forward in good faith so that next we will not be hearing departments requesting faculty to cover these courses. We can't go this route because we're not in a "build it and the money will come" situation.

Senator Romanin questioned if this year's data is significantly different than years past. Dr. Koch replied that the difference between new and dropped is greater than it was two years ago. She noted, however, that this is a different time which calls for different kinds of thinking and decisions, and by taking this back to the Committee this will allowing them to do that.

Faculty Chair Cooper urged that Committee to take a long enough look at things in advance so people will know right where they stand.

Senator Chancey stated that we have enough time to have careful consideration of this and moved to send the 2003-2004 Curriculum Changes document back to the University Curriculum Committee for review with respect to the cost of the programs; second by Senator Pohl.

Senator O'Kane noted that it occurred to him that there is actually yet one more category of new course that needs to be taken into consideration, that of a course that has been offer as an Experimental Course and is now so successful that it is now becoming a new course. Would this be a new expense?

Senator Couch Breitbach offered that as a Friendly Amendment that the graduate curriculum proposals should also go back to the Graduate College. Senator Chancey accepted it.

Chair Heston noted that we would need to have the "easy" changes by the Senate's January 12, 2004 meeting, the next scheduled Senate meeting, and the "harder" changes by the January 26 meeting.

Senator Zaman reiterated that the Senate is asking for two sets of proposals, one is the "easy" and the other is the "harder" ones dealing with programs and such.

Senator Pohl seconded the Friendly Amendment.

The Provost added that courses such as independent study or directive research that aren't in the normal load or are organized classes might make up some of the courses that are being added. He also noted that in the School of Music some of the courses being dropped are only one credit hour and there may be credit hour differences between what's being dropped and added. It's more complicated than it appears to be which is why this needs to be looked at carefully.

Senator Bankston questioned that of the 14 programs that are doing a restatement of the major that increases hours, are any tied to certification processes that are requiring hours to increase?

Dr. Koch responded that sometimes that is case, however, most accreditations are not driven by credit hour demands but by competencies or something like that. It is rare to see a certification state a requirement of a specific number of hours.

Senator Vinton noted that the Senate has raised a number of criteria that could be included in presenting information, and asked if it would be useful to suggest a list of criteria that we would like so it would be consistent across departments and colleges. Senator Chancey responded that it is within the capabilities of the University Curriculum Committee.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Heston asked Senator Chancey to report to the Senate on his work with the student's new Faculty Evaluation committee.

Senator Chancey reported that he was asked by NISG Vice-President Nate Green to attend a NISG committee meeting looking at faculty evaluations. He reported that committee had decided that "Pick a Prof" was not a good vehicle and looked to develop their own faculty evaluation vehicle. He noted that these are very serious and careful students giving thought on how best to help other students evaluate their course experiences. They are very sensitive to the issues involving United Faculty, issues involving the faculty, and he has a good deal of confidence in what they are doing and we can expect NISG to keep us informed.

Nate Green, Vice President of NISG, noted that he sits on that committee and will keep the Faculty Senate updated and informed.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Senator Chancey spoke on behalf of the Liberal Arts Core Committee, noting that they met last Friday on how they could enlarge the discussion on campus involving the Liberal Arts Core recommended revisions that had been brought forth. They will be undertaking discussions with each of the College senates in the next two months, with the idea of completing this process sometime in February. All faculty will be reminded of the proposed document through e-mail so that all faculty have a chance to respond to their individual representatives.

Chair Heston stated that the documents are now posted as part of the Senate's website so they are easily available to faculty.

She is checking into posting some of the faculty's comments with permission. She also noted that the Non-Western Culture's faculty is tentatively planning to begin conversations among themselves as to how they would like to see their situation handled. They are interested in having someone from the Senate attend those meetings. If you are interested in doing this, please let Chair Heston know.

Provost Podolefsky commented on the Liberal Arts Core, noting on a philosophical question, "Whose Core is it?" Is it the University's Core in which decisions come from the University faculty, or is it a collection of pre-existing categories with each one owned by an interest group who is responsible for maintaining or not maintaining their interest in the Core? Is the whole owned by the parts, and to what degree?

Marty Reineke, Philosophy and Religion, noted that based on discussion with other faculty, there are concerns about changing Humanities to two out of three courses; because the Humanities Committee has signed off on this, it could suggest it is their courses that they are responsible for. However, there is another constituency of university faculty as a whole and the extent to which they have expectations for what students will bring into their classes from the Liberal Arts Core. Previously with two courses that everyone took faculty could expect that all students had that common experience. Now it is only two-thirds who have had that common experience. Part of the conversation needs to be not only with those that teach the courses but those who have students after that experience; what is their investment in the Liberal Arts Core as a whole?

Senator Chancey responded that he appreciates the comments and noted that on the Humanities there will be a larger discussion because those changes come up through the curriculum process. He noted that students do transfer the Humanities credits from other institutions and part of the attempt has been to try to achieve what we would like in the reality of what students are able to do.

Dr. Cooper questioned if Capstone is intended to be the final class in the Liberal Arts Core? Or is it for the whole university experience?

Senator Chancey responded that we all want the best experience possible for our students and if it could be a larger Capstone experience that would be beneficial.

Kenneth Basom, Political Science, noted that the procedures suggested for getting a conversation started is good but it might be good to send a second reminder e-mail. Senator Chancey responded that the Liberal Arts Core Committee would make a sustained attempt to interest colleagues in this.

Faculty Chair Cooper stated that Donna Vinton has been awarded the Regents Award for Staff Excellence. The Senate responded with a round of applause.

CONSIDERATION OF DOCKETED ITEMS

768 Emeritus Status request for Jack Graham, School of Music, effective 12/03

Motion to approve by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane.

Senator Herndon commented that she had worked with him through music and dance, and was very impressed with him.

Motion passed.

769 Emeritus Status request for Leroy A. McGrew, Department of Chemistry, effective 12/03

Motion to approve by Senator Couch Breitbach; second by Zaman.

Senator Couch Breitbach remarked that she met Dr. McGrew when she came on campus as a freshman in 1977. She worked as a tutor for his students in Organic Chemistry as a graduate student and he was instrumental in her decision to go into education at the secondary level. He was an outstanding instructor, as well as a top-notch person with a sense of humor and had a great rapport with the students. No one is more deserving than Dr. McGrew.

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Senator Couch Breitbach; second by Senator Zaman.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Snowden
Faculty Senate Secretary